

Alexander Amendment No. 2929, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S8707–09**

Further Continuing Appropriations: Senate passed H.J. Res. 78, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016. **Page S8723**

Securing Fairness in Regulatory Timing Act: Senate passed H.R. 3831, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the annual comment period for payment rates under Medicare Advantage. **Page S8728**

Saving Federal Dollars Through Better Use of Government Purchase and Travel Cards Act: Senate passed S. 1616, to provide for the identification and prevention of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the use of Federal agency charge cards, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S8728–29**

McConnell (for Carper) Amendment No. 2930, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S8728–29**

25th Anniversary of Democracy in Mongolia: Senate agreed to S. Res. 189, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 25th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia. **Page S8729**

Peaceful Elections in Burma: Senate agreed to S. Res. 320, congratulating the people of Burma on their commitment to peaceful elections, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S8729–30**

135th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with Romania: Senate agreed to S. Res. 326, celebrating the 135th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Romania. **Page S8730**

Violence Against Women and Children by ISIS: Senate agreed to S. Res. 310, condemning the ongoing sexual violence against women and children from Yezidi, Christian, Shabak, Turkmen, and other religious communities by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria militants and urging the prosecution of the perpetrators and those complicit in these crimes, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S8730–32**

McConnell (for Lankford) Amendment No. 2931, to define “complicit” for purposes of the resolution. **Page S8732**

Measures Indefinitely Postponed:

Adjournment Resolution: Senate indefinitely postponed H. Con. Res. 91, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives. **Page S8728**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Majority Leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled

bills or joint resolutions on Wednesday, December 16, 2015. **Page S8723**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Gabriel Camarillo, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Thomas Edgar Rothman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2016.

Thomas O. Melia, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Marcel John Lettre, II, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Page S8732

Steven Michael Haro, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce. **Pages S8728, S8732**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Paul Lewis Abrams, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Suzanne Mitchell, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Scott L. Palk, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Ronald G. Russell, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah. **Page S8732**

Messages from the House: **Page S8724**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S8725**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8725–26**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8723–24**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S8726–27**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S8728**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S8728**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11:01 a.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2015. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S8732.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Administration’s strategy

in Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from Richard G. Olson, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State; Donald L. Sampler, Assistant to the Administrator and Director of the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, United States Agency for International Development;

Ali A. Jalali, National Defense University Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, Department of Defense; and James B. Cunningham, Atlantic Council South Asia Center, and Jodi Vittori, Global Witness, both of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 4262–4279; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 78–79; and H. Res. 567, were introduced.

Pages H9373–75

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H9375–76

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 566, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from December 19, 2015, through January 4, 2016; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–382).

Page H9373

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben, Chief of Chaplains for the United States Navy, Washington, DC.

Page H9331

Resignation of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives: Read a letter from Ed Cassidy, in which he submitted his resignation as Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, effective upon the election of his successor.

Page H9332

Administration of the Oath of Office to an Officer of the House: The Speaker administered the Oath of Office to William Plaster of the Commonwealth of Virginia to act as and to exercise the duties of Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, effective December 31, 2015.

Page H9332

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2820, to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-

and-nay vote of 421 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 695;

Pages H9333–35, H9339

National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act of 2015: H.R. 4246, to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 419 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 696;

Pages H9335–37, H9339–40

Emergency Information Improvement Act of 2015: S. 1090, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 420 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 697;

Pages H9337–38, H9340–41

Further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016: H.J. Res. 78, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016;

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Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2297, to prevent Hizballah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 425 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 698;

Pages H9341–46, H9356

First Responders Passport Act of 2015: H.R. 3750, amended, to waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 421 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 699;

Pages H9346–48, H9356–57

Tracking Foreign Fighters in Terrorist Safe Havens Act: H.R. 4239, amended, to require intelligence community reporting on foreign fighter flows to and from terrorist safe havens abroad, by a